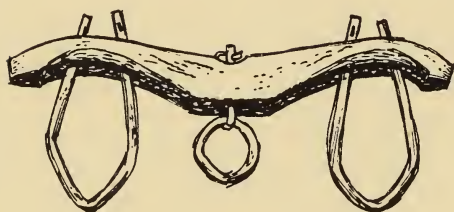


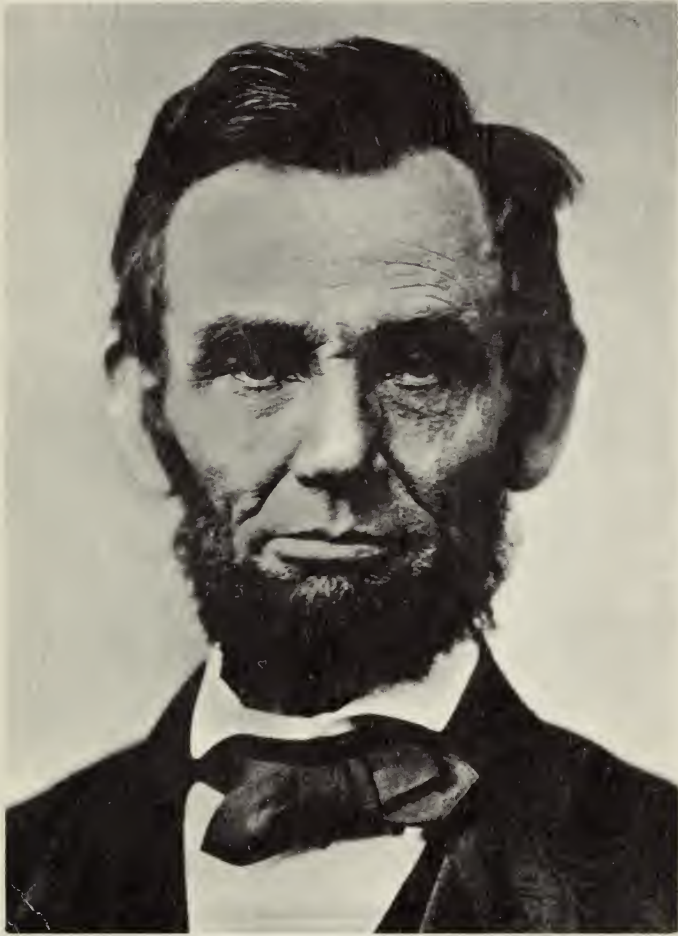
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[Students of Sterling-Rock Falls, Ill.]
Stories of Lincoln. (1963)

LINCOLN ROOM



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
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Stories of Lincoln

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It is with a great deal of satisfaction that the Sterling-Rock Falls Historical Society, in cooperation with the Central National Bank of Sterling, issues its second publication. In STORIES OF LINCOLN we are happy to recognize some of the fine efforts of Sterling student historians in telling the story of this great son of Illinois. We are proud to present these essays in permanent form so that the reader may enjoy them as we have at meetings of the society.

Gunnar Benson, President
Sterling-Rock Falls
Historical Society.

April 1963

STORIES OF LINCOLN

Published by
**Sterling-Rock Falls
Historical Society**
in cooperation with

The CENTRAL *National Bank*
OF STERLING

STERLING, ILLINOIS

1963

EDITOR'S COMMENT

This publication, STORIES OF LINCOLN, is composed of articles written by Sterling students. It is an attempt to recognize the talent, effort, research and interest of Sterling students, in our sixteenth President, Abraham Lincoln. You, as a reader, add emphasis to the importance of ever striving to emulate leaders of high integrity and character.

A great tool of learning used by Illinois students is the opportunity to contribute articles to ILLINOIS HISTORY MAGAZINE, sponsored by the Illinois State Historical Society. The Director, Olive S. Foster, has done an outstanding job in promoting student interest and participation. We owe a great debt of gratitude to her and previous directors, as well as to Dr. Clyde C. Walton, State Historian and Colonel William Herzog, prominent Lincoln scholar who spoke to our students and historical society in May 1962.

Of necessity, even such a program has limitations. Only eight to ten student articles can be published in ILLINOIS HISTORY MAGAZINE in each of its eight yearly issues. Sterling has been most fortunate in its share of student articles published, and this has been continuously since 1955. This is primarily due to the cooperation and interest of the students, teachers, parents and community. The Sterling-Rock Falls Historical Society continues to do much to encourage student contributions and help with research, pictures and advice to promote this student program.

We feel our students are worthy of further recognition. Then too, many hard working students have not had their articles published. This is not because the articles are not of high quality, but because of keen competition from other contributors throughout the state. We therefore, with the cooperation of the Central National Bank of Sterling, and the Sterling-Rock Falls Historical Society, offer this booklet of both published and previously unpublished student articles. They are offered for your pleasure and approval as well as to demonstrate the high caliber of Sterling students and their work and to give them the proper recognition they justly deserve.

Lloyd Casey

THE DIRECTOR SPEAKS

It gives me great pleasure to contribute to this volume, which represents countless hours of original research and inspirational reading.

The Sterling-Rock Falls Historical Society and the teachers and principals in the Sterling school system have been among the most loyal supporters of the Student Historian Program of the Illinois State Historical Society. Throughout the years the teachers in this community have cooperated wholeheartedly with the purpose of this program -- that is, studying Illinois history, learning the technique of research, mastering the skills of writing, and developing a genuine love of history. In this last pursuit, especially, there is no substitute for enthusiastic teachers, who, themselves, love history.

While many of the articles printed in the pages that follow are neither great history nor great writing, they do represent the first steps in that direction. Some of them, in fact, are more than first steps. These are the original, well-written, award-winning articles that have been chosen for publication in ILLINOIS HISTORY.

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The annual "Abraham Lincoln" issue of the magazine is always one of the most popular. Over one hundred articles are submitted each year for this issue alone. From this group only ten to twelve are chosen for publication. Naturally only the most original can be used -- particularly when the topic is the same year after year. This is the only magazine theme that is repeated annually. Actually the ingenuity and the patience of the teachers in searching for new material is an indication of their professional skill. And the response of the students is proof of their imagination and ability.

Lincoln Room T1
Olive S. Foster

THE STATE HISTORIAN NOTES

Congratulations to the students and teachers of Sterling Junior High School for the publication of these interesting and worthwhile articles about Abraham Lincoln.

We have long been aware of the energy and vision displayed by the students and teachers of Sterling in their well-developed program of studies in Illinois History. These articles published here are clear evidence of the value of this program. Indeed, we look upon Sterling as being one of the leaders in the State of Illinois in carrying out a successful program of studies in the field of Local History.

These articles are concerned with the life and times of one of our greatest Americans, a fellow Illinoisan, Abraham Lincoln. This man, who came from the most humble of beginnings to hold the highest office which American people can bestow upon any of its number, is clearly worthy of the attention of our young people. Although Lincoln has been studied and restudied, examined and re-examined, and is the subject of thousands of books and tens of thousands of magazine articles, we still do not know all we want to know about him. In some elusive fashion, not yet completely known to scholars, Lincoln has come to epitomize, more than any other American, the spirit of American democracy.

Who can deny, then, that to study Lincoln is to study the best in the American dream. If, in this study, some knowledge, of the sources of Illinois history is absorbed, if a first, faint approach to research appears, if through the study of local history one realizes that all our national history had its beginnings as local events and affairs, then such a program as you have here in Sterling is amply justified.

Again, congratulations to the student authors of these articles and to the teachers whose initiative and professional knowledge made this program and these articles possible.

Clyde C. Walton

SPEAKING OF MR. LINCOLN....

by William Herzog
Col. A. U. S. Retired
Co-Founder of the
Abraham Lincoln Heritage

To an American in sympathy with his country, loving her as she is, not wishing her essentially different, there can be few historical figures as attractive as Abraham Lincoln. Unequalled since Washington in service to the nation, he is unrivalled among our statesmen in the closeness with which he represents our land. He was the North, the South, the East, the West. He was the one man---all of us in one.

The biography of such a man can afford honesty. Many would like to improve the rugged and homely face with a touch of the dramatic. Surely this is trivial. Let us not try to make our great man like other great men. Let him be the prairie farmer, the village clerk, the deft politician, as well as the generous statesman. Paint him as he is, he will still be great, nobler than ever because more real. Better the truth and strength and beauty that are than any fiction less human and less profound. From the wilderness to the White House, the material is all in, the opportunity is here for any who can use it.

When Lowell calls Lincoln the first American, and when Emerson rejoices that a middle-class nation was wise enough to select a middle-class president, the importance of that ruler's social origin is suggested. He sprang from the great base of the nation's life with few traditions, no knowledge of other lands and times confronting a wilderness and its pioneers, longing for light but having to work for every ray, thrown intellectually naked into the world. His education had to be directly from the nature of the men and women who passed before him, so when he came to his great trial, he had to pilot a people whose peculiarities he knew intimately.

The fathers of the revolution were cultivated Englishmen confronting Englishmen. Lincoln's whole nature grew in our soil and when he was asked to rule a distracted country, native strength, honesty, and shrewdness had as their foundation an intimacy with the kinds of human nature which formed the conflicting masses.

Lincoln's great ability to say so much in so few words hardly has been equalled. No-one with discernment can sit down and read through the collected works of Abraham Lincoln, speech by speech, letter by letter, document by document, without knowing that he was a man who had mastered the language of his people. Now after a century, the Lincoln story remains forever fresh, from that eventful February 12, 1809, when he first opened his eyes, to that tragic April 15, 1865, when he closed them in sleep forevermore.

On the loved Lincoln shrine in the nation's capitol, there is inscribed a worthy tribute. Itself composed of twenty-eight blocks of Georgia white marble, standing nineteen feet high from head to foot, these are the immortal words thereon:

In this temple as in the hearts of the people
for whom he saved the Union, the memory of
Abraham Lincoln is enthroned forever.

THE EARLY LIFE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

by Sally Bressler

Abraham Lincoln was born February 12, 1809, in a log cabin about three miles from Hodgen's Mill in Hardin, Kentucky. Both his parents were nearly illiterate, poor frontier folk.

When young Abe was seven years old, his family moved across the Ohio River where they became squatters along Pidgeon Creek. During the first winter the family lived in a crude lean-to made of poles and brush, with one side open to the weather. The next year they had a cabin without floors or windows. It was here that his mother became ill and died. The next year his father married a widow, Sarah Bush Johnston. There was a real bond of affection between Abraham and his step-mother which lasted throughout their lives.

Abraham had the usual boyhood of a frontier youth. After the move to Indiana, he was kept hard at work for many months clearing the land for crops and fuel. He did this besides fencing, plowing, planting, and harvesting. All this work left him little time for schooling. He did study under three local schoolmasters in Indiana, but never for very long at a time. Abraham was never satisfied with his meager education. He would read and reread the family Bible far into the night, as well as any other books he could beg or borrow. He husked a great quantity of corn for the loan of one book and walked eighteen miles to obtain another. He taught himself mathematics, grammar, history, and surveying by the light of an open fireplace. His favorite books were Pilgrim's Progress, Aesop's Fables, and Robinson Crusoe.

He didn't spend all of his time studying and working. He took part in debating societies and other neighborhood activities. He was particularly fond of competing in feats of strength. By the time he left Indiana, he was one of the neighborhood champions in wrestling and weight lifting. Of all the things he did, he was happiest when he was a member of a group of men gathered at a cross-road store. It was here the discussion of politics and the swapping of stories took place.

In 1829, Abraham made his first extended trip away from his family. He helped sail a flatboat down the Mississippi River to New Orleans. When he returned he found his family preparing to go west again. They moved to Macon County, Illinois. He stayed with his family long enough to help them move and establish themselves on their new homestead. Abraham had never been able to get along with his father, and when the new land was cleared, the cabin built, and the fields fenced, he started out for himself at the age of twenty-one.

He went to New Salem and started to work with a storekeeper. He helped him build a flatboat, load it with produce, and float it down to New Orleans. He spent six years in New Salem. He worked as a surveyor, as a storekeeper, did odd jobs, and served as postmaster. He tried running a store of his own, but this was unsuccessful. He accumulated a lot of debts during this time, and it took him fifteen years to pay them off.

He first started to study law in New Salem. He read Blackstone at night and during the day between jobs. Even though he wasn't a prosperous man, Abraham soon became a leader of the community; from there to a great leader of our country.

* * * * *

A BOYHOOD TRAGEDY

by Shirley Williams

Everyone knows that Abraham Lincoln was President during some of our nation's most critical years, but few people know about a boyhood tragedy which almost took his life. This incident happened near Hodgenville, Kentucky.

Lincoln had been going to school with Austin Gollaher for more than a year, and the boys were greatly attached to each other. Years later Gollaher recalled that the school disbanded, because of the few scholars, and the boys did not see each other for a long time.

One Sunday, Austin and his family visited the Lincolns. Abe and Austin were overjoyed to see each other and decided to play outside while Abe's mother fixed supper. While playing, Abraham and Austin went to Knob Creek. Abraham had seen some partridges the day before on the other side of the creek, so he wanted to show them to Austin. The creek, flooded by a recent rain, had debris floating around in it. In crossing the creek on a narrow footlog Abraham fell in. Neither Abraham nor Austin could swim, so Austin managed to grab a sycamore branch that was floating in the water and pulled Abraham, who clung to it, ashore. He was almost dead. Austin pounded on Abraham in good earnest. Then he got him by the arms and shook him till water came pouring out of Abraham's mouth. By doing this Austin succeeded in arousing him. He was all right but still a little shaken.

Then a new difficulty confronted them. If their mothers discovered their wet clothes, they were sure to get a whipping. This they dreaded from experience. Naturally, they were going to try to avoid getting whipped.

It was a June day. The sun was hot and very warm, so the boys dried their clothes by spreading them on rocks. They dried very quickly, so that was no problem.

When they arrived home, their mothers asked them where they had been so long. Both boys said they had been hunting for animals and didn't realize what time it was. That night both boys swore they would never tell anyone of their adventure, and Austin never did until after Lincoln's tragic death.

(Published in ILLINOIS HISTORY magazine, February 1963)

(Eligible for 1963 annual awards)

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A DAY WITH LINCOLN DURING THE 1856 CAMPAIGN

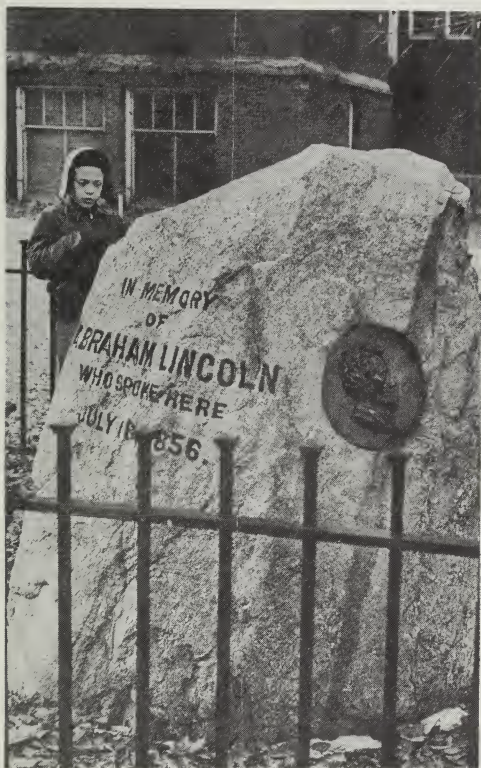
by Carole Benson

When the Illinois State Historical Society held its spring tour in Dixon in May, 1956, it was my privilege to be present when Governor William G. Stratton dedicated the Lincoln Room in the Nachusa House. In this room Abraham Lincoln spent the night of July 17, 1856, after having taken part in a Republican rally in Dixon that day. Knowing that Lincoln left for Sterling (my home town) the next day, July 18, I became curious about the events of that day. After doing some research, the following is what I learned.

On the morning of July 18, Mr. Lincoln, after breakfasting and bidding his friends in Dixon good-by, left for Sterling to attend another Fremont-Bissell rally. How Lincoln traveled the dozen miles to Sterling is not known, but probably he came on the Galena and Chicago Union Railroad, which had been completed to Sterling the previous year.

Upon his arrival in Sterling, Mr. Lincoln was greeted by his old friend Robert L. Wilson, with whom he had served in the Illinois legislature, both having been members of the famous "Long Nine" of the 1830's. Lincoln was to have been the house guest of the Wilsons, but according to Wilson's daughter, Mrs. Wilson had met with a serious accident a few days before and it was necessary to make other arrangements. Mr. Wilson, therefore, took Mr. Lincoln to the home of his friends, the Manahans, where Mr. Lincoln made his headquarters. (This home, located on the Lincoln Highway, is thought to be the only home on the highway that bears his name in which Lincoln ever spent the night.) Mr. Wilson then left his friend and returned to his wife to wait for the rally, which was to be held on the lawn opposite the Wilson home. (A large boulder on the northeast corner of the Central School grounds marks the spot where Lincoln spoke.)

After Mr. Lincoln was



located in the Manahan home, he went next door to the Emmons Wagon Shop, where he met a number of local politicians and "hangers-on." They were soon involved in a discussion of the political issues of the day. From the wagon shop, Lincoln probably walked the distance of four blocks to the site of the rally, which was being sponsored by the "Free Kansas Club." Here he found erected a crude platform, which served as the speakers' stand for the day. From the stand, Mr. Lincoln could see the Wilsons sitting at the open window of their home, waiting for the program to begin.

The rally got started at noon, and the first speaker was Mr. J. C. Vaughan of the Chicago Tribune, who addressed the group for one hour. The meeting was then adjourned so that the people might eat their noon meal. Mr. Lincoln dined at the Wallace House and there met a lawyer friend by the name of Stillman, a Democrat who had practiced law in Springfield. After dinner he said to Lincoln, "Abe, I'm coming over to hear you speak this afternoon." Lincoln replied, "All right, Stillman, come on." So they all returned to the rally.

Mr. Lincoln was introduced as the first speaker at the afternoon session. It was a very warm day, so Lincoln removed his collar and then, turning to Stillman, said, "If I make any statement today that my Democratic friend, Stillman, will not endorse, I will take it back." He then began his speech, and after making several strong points, each time challenging his friend to disagree with him, he caused Stillman to say, "I'm going to leave. This is getting too hot for me." Lincoln continued for two hours, and in the words of one listener, "Lincoln's language and arguments were so impressive, and his facts were so clear that he made an impression on all who heard him."

Next to speak was John Wentworth, editor of the Chicago Democrat, whose message was "effective and well received." During the afternoon and evening, the audience was entertained by the Sterling Sax Horn Band. Another feature of the rally was the singing of Republican songs by Mr. F. Lumbarde of Chicago. After a pause for the evening meal, the meeting was resumed at the courthouse, where those present first heard from J. Farnsworth, Esquire, of Chicago. The day's speechmaking was brought to a close with an address by J. J. Beardsley of Rock Island. So came to an end another day of campaigning for Mr. Lincoln. The next morning he left for Chicago, where he delivered an address in the evening at an open-air meeting in Dearborn Park.

Mr. Lincoln made many appearances throughout the state the summer and fall of 1856 in the interest of the state and the national Republican tickets, but of most interest to me is the day he spent in Sterling.

(Published in ILLINOIS HISTORY magazine, February 1958)

(Received Governor's Award and Harry E. Pratt Memorial Award of \$100.)

* * * * *

LINCOLN'S THOUSAND DOLLAR CASE

by Barbara Reynolds

Lincoln's first thousand dollar fee was for his work on the McCormick Reaper Suit. In this case, Cyrus R. McCormick sued John Manny, charging patent infringement. The suit covered the period between 1854 and 1856. This case was not only notable in American History because of the influence on Lincoln's later career, but because of the importance to the farmers and industrialists. The case was to be held in Chicago, Illinois, but it was later decided to try it in Cincinnati, Ohio.

McCormick, the plaintiff, hired two lawyers, Edward Dickerson and Reverdy Johnson. Manny, the defendant, was represented by four lawyers, three of whom were from the East. Peter Watson was in charge of the defense and George Harding of Philadelphia was retained for the technical part of the trial. Edward M. Stanton, a leader of the Ohio Bar was chosen for the argument. Abraham Lincoln was selected by Watson as a substitute for Stanton, because the trial was to be held in Illinois where Lincoln was favorably well known. Lincoln was expected to study the case and prepare an argument. However, there seemed to be a misunderstanding between Watson and Lincoln, and Lincoln assumed that he was to help Stanton present the argument.

The case was set for Thursday, September 20, 1855. Lincoln reached Cincinnati on Tuesday and stayed at the home of a friend, William M. Dickson. Sometime after his arrival, he went to the Burnet House where he expected to meet Stanton and Harding. However, when Lincoln introduced himself to Harding and Stanton, he met with a cool reception from both men.

At the beginning of the trial it was understood by both sides that Lincoln would drop out of the defense council. This hurt him deeply but he decided to supply both defense lawyers with his prepared argument. He asked Watson to deliver it for him, and later it was returned to him unopened. During the trial a dinner was held, which all the principals attended but Lincoln was not invited. Although he went to court every day, he was not asked to sit with the lawyers.

Lincoln sat in the back with other spectators, but he listened carefully. He watched every movement and gesture made by his colleagues. Though hurt, he realized that he was not as qualified as college-trained men such as Harding and Stanton. He decided to go home and study more law so he would be prepared for men of this type when they came West.

On January 16, 1865, Justice McLean handed down a decision for Manny. Lincoln then left Cincinnati on Wednesday, September 26, expecting never to return to the city again. However, he did return on his campaign, September 17, 1859, and again when he was moving to Washington as President-elect. At that time, February 12, 1861, he was greeted with friendliness and cheering crowds.

This case was important to Lincoln not only because it was the turning point in his legal career, but also because of the thousand dollar retainer which helped him in his campaign for the Presidency.

When Lincoln became President he appointed Stanton, the man who had snubbed him, as his Secretary of War. Stanton became a loyal

supporter of Lincoln and it was Stanton at the death bed of one of our greatest presidents who said, "Now he belongs to the ages."

* * * * *

THE LONG MAN ON A SHORT COUCH

by Margaret Davidson

Mr. Abraham Lincoln was one of our most honorable and distinguished presidents. The city of Sterling, Illinois was honored by his presence on July 18, 1856.

The purpose of his visit was to preside at a political rally of the newly formed Republican Club. Mr. Lincoln was greeted by a smaller group than was anticipated, but those who did attend the reception were well pleased with the time spent there.

After the reception, Mr. Lincoln went to the northeast corner of Central Grade School to give his speech. After giving his speech, he went to the home of Col. Robert L. Wilson. Col. Wilson was one of Lincoln's best friends and was a member of the "Long Nine", which consisted of nine men over six feet tall. Lincoln was told by the colonel that his wife had fallen from a horse previous to his visit to Sterling, and therefore they would not be able to accommodate Mr. Lincoln at their home during his stay, as previously planned. This being the situation, Mr. Lincoln was to stay at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. James E. Manahan.

The house where Lincoln was entertained and visited is still standing today at 607 East Third Street, Sterling. It is in good condition. This house is thought to be the only home on the Lincoln Highway in which Mr. Lincoln ever spent the night. The couch on which Lincoln rested is still in possession of a man named John G. Honens. The couch has been handed down to the eldest for several generations. The couch used to be of black horse hair but has now



been recovered. I had the great privilege to lie down on this couch. I am five feet tall and fit just right. Imagine Mr. Lincoln on the couch -- being six feet four inches tall!

After visiting awhile, Mr. Lincoln went across the alley to the Emmon's Shop to discuss politics with some of his friends. He then came back to the Manahan house and was entertained by these people. He rested there overnight.

Mrs. Emma Wilson Edwards dedicated a large boulder to Lincoln which is placed at the northeast corner where Lincoln gave his speech. Mrs. Edwards was Col. Wilson's daughter.

Sterling feels honored to have had such a distinguished visitor.

* * * * *

DAD JOE ENTERTAINS LINCOLN

by Carolyn Casey

When my grandmother Hubbell was a girl, she played in a house once known as the Dad Joe Tavern. She told my mother she had often played in the room where Lincoln spent the night of May 12, 1832. Recently we visited the William Anderson family, who now live in the Dad Joe Tavern, near Ohio, Illinois. According to information supplied by Mrs. Anderson the following story unfolds.

One morning a mail carrier, tired and hungry from traveling all night stopped at Dad Joe Smith's place for breakfast. After a fine meal he told Dad Joe that if he could have his meal cooked by a woman he would not stop at the Ament Tavern at Red Oak, any longer, but would stop here. Mrs. Smith was the only woman living in the area and was a wonderful cook. Travelers soon began stopping at Dad Joe's and the Aments sold out.

Joseph Smith was one of the first pioneers in Bureau County. He changed the name of the region from "Little Round Grove" to "Dad Joe Grove". He had brought his family up from Fort Clark, later known as Peoria, in 1828.

When he arrived at the site in Bureau County a claim, four logs laid in a square, was already there. The Ament brothers at Red Oak had laid the claim, but let Dad Joe have it. It took great pains to build a cabin. There were no nails, so the cabin was put together with wooden pegs. The outside of the house was a straight trim.

The night of May 12, 1832, a company of soldiers spent the night in Dad Joe's tavern. Among the group were Zachory Taylor, Colonel; Jefferson Davis, lieutenant; and a thin young man named Abe Lincoln, Captain. They immediately went to the well for a drink. They dropped the oaken bucket down into the well, and it came up full of crystal clear water. Everyone had to wait his turn including Lincoln.

As he waited, he looked around and was surprised at what he saw. The house was quite different from those in New Salem, for it was shingled and a full two stories high. He was also surprised at seeing a woman this far into Indian Country.

The meal Mrs. Smith set before them made them rest in leisure. It probably included home-made bread (a loaf cost \$1.00), butter, milk, wild fruit, and a choice of wild turkey, prairie chicken, or venison.

After supper Abe Lincoln walked the open stairway to a south room which was spacious, warm and comfortable. There was a Franklin stove in each room, and each man had to take his turn getting up in the night to get wood to keep the fire going.

The Company was on their way to Fort Dixon to pacify the Indians, but they had already fled to Oregon. In all, Lincoln spent three years in this, the Blackhawk War. According to his account, he killed thousands of mosquitoes and saved one old Indian from being killed. After the war Abe Lincoln returned to New Salem. But, in less than thirty years this thin, young Captain would become President of the United States of America.

* * * * *

LINCOLN'S COURTSHIPS

by Charles Eckel, Jr.

Abraham Lincoln has always been thought of as a bashful man, but if all the stories were true about his loves, he certainly was not.

Many of the so-called loves do not stand up under close study. Polly Richardson, Elizabeth Tully, Caroline Meeker, Elizabeth Ray, Matilda Johnston, Hannah Gentry, Elizabeth Wood, Julia Evans, and Sarah Lukins were Lincoln's doubted romances. Sarah Lukins said she could have been Lincoln's wife if she had wanted to because he walked her home from church once!

Abe's first romance was with Katie Roby, a classmate. One day there was a spelling match at school. After a while only Katie and Abe were left. Katie was given the word "defied". She started out "d - e - f", but she didn't know which came after "f", "i" or "y". Abe pointed to his eye, giving Katie a clue, and she spelled the word correctly.

Katie moved to Rockport, Indiana, in 1828. Abe was there, building a flatboat. They often strolled down to the river on a pleasant night, dangled their feet in the water, and watched the moon or told stories. Katie married Allen Gentry on March 20, 1828.

When Abe moved to Illinois, near Decatur, he split one thousand rails for Sheriff William Warnick in the winter of 1830-31. Abe saw Polly, the sheriff's, daughter, quite a lot but never proposed to her. She married Joseph Stevens in 1830.

Abe then moved to New Salem and boarded at the Rutledge Tavern. There he met Ann Rutledge. Ann was engaged to Hohn McNeil at the age of seventeen but was jilted at nineteen. Ann and Abe became engaged New Year's Day, 1835. Ann died from malaria at sunset on August 25, 1835.

Legends say Lincoln went partially insane over her death, but there is proof of his working during this time, which makes these stories doubtful.

After Ann's death, Mary Owens came from Greene County, Kentucky, to visit her sister. Lincoln thought of marrying her and proposed, but Mary refused. In two letters, Lincoln gradually pulled away from Mary. On April 1, 1838, Lincoln ended the unsuccessful affair with her, saying in a letter that she was a fair match for Falstaff.

Abe took Sarah Rickard to the first real theatrical play, "The Babes in the Woods," in Springfield. Sarah thought that, since Sarah in the Bible married Abraham, she should marry Lincoln. An older sister objected that she was too young for marriage.

Lincoln's final love was Mary Todd, one of four daughters of Honorable Robert S. Todd. Mary had quite a choice of beaux, but she chose Lincoln, and they were engaged in 1840. Lincoln's relations were upset with Mary on the "fatal first of January '41." Still they were married by the Rev. Charles Dresser on November 4, 1842, in the home of her brother-in-law, Ninian W. Edwards. After the wedding they lived in a room the Globe Tavern for four dollars a week. Later they bought their own home, for which they paid fifteen hundred dollars.

Some people thought that Abe and Mary did not get along, but from what I have found, they were a normal family with little spats now and then, but proved their love by the inscription on the wedding ring, "Love is Eternal".

* * * * *

LINCOLN THE HUMORIST

by Sandra Coats

Abraham Lincoln was the first real humorist to occupy the White House. After his election, the Saturday Review of London said: "One advantage which the Americans now have in national joking, is the possession of a president who is not only the First Magistrate, but the Chief Joker, of the land."

When Lincoln was a boy, he told stories for the pure fun of it. When he grew to manhood, he used stories to win cases in court, to prove points in politics, and brighten the bitter days of the Civil War. He has been quoted as saying that only about one-sixth of his stories were original. He called himself a "retail dealer."

Lincoln's laugh was definitely his own. Laughter for him was a "life preserver," and as he once described it, "the joyous, beautiful, universal evergreen of life." It was also an aid and stimulant to work.

Lincoln usually started a story with the sentence, "Now that reminds me of a story---." The story that followed was not told merely to be humorous, but as a parable or a lesson in wisdom. His jokes were always short and illustrated with the form of life he knew best. They were not coarse but "homely". An example of this was his story of the man who hid behind the woodpile and saw six skunks walking in procession to rob his chicken house. Firing, he killed one and when asked later why he had not killed them all, he replied with feeling, that he had been six weeks getting over the effects of shooting that one, "Reckoned he'd let the others go."

Abe joked about himself as easily as he did about others, the following being a good example of this trait. "He was, naturally enough, much surprised one day, when a man of rather forbidding countenance drew a revolver and thrust the weapon almost into his face. In such circumstances he at once concluded that any attempt at debate or argument was a waste of time and words. "What seems to be the matter?" inquired Lincoln with all the calmness and self-possession he could muster. "Well," replied the stranger, who did

not appear at all excited, "Some years ago I swore an oath that if I ever came across an uglier man than myself I'd shoot him on the spot". A feeling of relief evidently took possession of Lincoln at this rejoinder, as the expression upon his countenance lost all suggestion of anxiety. "Shoot me," he said to the stranger, "for if I am an uglier man than you I don't want to live."

"When Lincoln was a young lawyer in Illinois, he and a certain judge once got to bantering one another about trading horses; and it was agreed that the next morning at nine o'clock they should make a trade, the horses to be unseen up to that hour, and no backing out, under a forfeiture of \$25. At the hour appointed the judge came up, leading the sorriest-looking specimen of a horse ever seen in those parts. In a few minutes Mr. Lincoln was seen approaching with a wooden saw-horse upon his shoulders. Great were the shouts and laughter of the crowd, and both were greatly increased when Lincoln, on surveying the judge's animal, set down his saw-horse and exclaimed: "Well Judge, this is the first time I ever got the worst of it in a horse trade."

At one time Lincoln was asked if the town, Lincoln, Illinois was named after him. He said, "Well, it was named after I was."

* * * * *

UNCLE ABE

by Marilyn Bivin

Many stories have been written about the life of Abe Lincoln, but few have mentioned stories of the children's friend, "Uncle Abe". He was kind, humorous and understanding. No doubt the deep love and reverence he had for his mother greatly influenced this boy. His earliest recollection of her was sitting at her feet listening to the tales and legends which she either read or related to him and his sister Sarah. He felt there was nothing his mother couldn't do, and it was true, she did everything. She could handle a gun as well as a man and still do the longtoilsome tasks and daily labor of caring for her family. Yet she still found time to teach Abe to read and give him daily instruction from the Bible. It was she who layed the foundation of truth, honor, goodness and sympathy which were to remain with this great American.

When he was a boy, Paris Henderson of East Long Beach, California knew Lincoln. He tells this story.

"Few people knew what an intensely religious man Lincoln was. Lincoln lived in Springfield, Ill., and worked in Sullivan, Ill. My father owned a farm halfway between those two places, and Lincoln often passed the night in our home. That first night I had gone to sleep when he came into the room, I awakened. He was a tall gaunt figure, apparently the tallest man I had ever seen. He knelt and prayed just before he came to bed, and I shall never forget the depth of his religious fervor.

One day when we were to have a contest in our Sunday School, to see which one could learn the most verses, father got sick and could not take me to Sunday School on his horse. I was crying with disappointment when Lincoln came in. When he found the

reason for my tears he begged to be allowed to take me with him. His horse carried double, I rode behind him. When we reached our destination we found that my teacher was absent, so Lincoln took my class, heard us recite and gave me the prize. It was a Bible, and when he gave it to me he wrote his name in it."

Lincoln was known for his many stories and anecdotes. Following are just a few which show his love for children.

At a party in Chicago shortly before Mr. Lincoln's departure for Washington a little girl timidly approached the great man. Mr. Lincoln called her to him and asked her what she wanted. She replied that she wanted his name. Mr. Lincoln looked back into the other room and said, "But there are other little girls. They would feel badly if I should give my name only to you." The little girl replied that there were eight in all. "Then," said Mr. Lincoln, "Get me eight sheets of paper, a pen and ink and I will see what I can do for you." The paper was brought and Mr. Lincoln sat down in the crowded stairway room and wrote a sentence upon each sheet, and signed his name. Thus every little girl carried off his souvenir.

A lady, who lived in Springfield when a young girl, relates the following story to show his unusual kindness:

She had planned to take a trip on the cars, which was to be a great event in her life; but somehow the hackman had failed to call for her and her trunk and time of departure was nearing rapidly. Beginning to fear she would be left she stepped out of the house and peered anxiously down the street. Mr. Lincoln happened along and noticed her perturbation and asked the cause for her alarm.

She told her story, and Mr. Lincoln said: "How big is your trunk? There is still time if it isn't too big."

The girl took him to her room where the little old-fashioned trunk was standing.

"Oh, Ho," he exclaimed, "wipe your eyes and come quick."

He seized the trunk, lifted it to his shoulders and strode out of the house. Down the street he went, his long limbs carrying him along at rapid rate.

When he reached the station he helped her on to the train, kissed her good bye and told her to have a good time.

Found on a leaf of an old book in which Lincoln had practiced writing his sums, were written these words:

"Abraham Lincoln, his hand and pen,
He will be great, but God knows when."

* * * * *

A RECORD LEGAL FEE

by Carl Witmer

What do you think was the highest fee Abraham Lincoln received in his twenty-three years as a lawyer? It was \$5,000 for successfully defending the Illinois Central Railroad against an Illinois county which had levied a tax the railroad said was illegal.

Lincoln agreed to represent the Illinois Central Railroad on October 7, 1853. The railroad's charter from the state government exempted the company from paying state taxes; instead, it was to pay seven per cent of its gross earnings. But McLean County felt that it had the same right to collect taxes from the railroad that it collected from any other property owner. The tax the county was trying to collect would have bankrupted the railroad because it would amount to millions of dollars, and the railroad in Illinois was just in the experimental stage.

Lincoln led the defense with great skill but lost in the first court that heard the case. He appealed to the Illinois Supreme Court. There the case was twice argued before a final decision was reached in favor of the railroad in the December, 1855, term. (Actually, that term extended into 1856, and Lincoln's case was not finally acted upon until some time that year.) Lincoln presented the railroad with a \$2,000 bill, but the officials laughed at such a high fee for a frontier lawyer.

When Lincoln told other lawyers about it, they agreed that he had a case against the railroad; even though he had saved the company millions of dollars, its officials didn't want to pay what Lincoln considered fair. Lincoln then started a suit against the railroad for a \$5,000 fee. When the case was called in the McLean County Circuit Court on June 18, 1857, the lawyer for the railroad didn't show up so Lincoln was awarded \$5,000. Later the lawyer asked for a retrial, and Lincoln agreed to it. When the case was called again, on June 23, Lincoln read a statement from Illinois lawyers in which they claimed that \$5,000 for the services Lincoln gave was not unreasonable. Lincoln told the jury that he had already been paid \$200 and that they should make the verdict for \$4,800, which they did.

When thirty-eight days had gone by and the railroad still hadn't paid, an order was issued for the sheriff to seize some property of the railroad. This was not necessary, however, because the railroad finally paid the \$4,800.

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AN "EIGHTH DEBATE"?

by Bruce Kelsey

For many years there has been a controversy over whether Lincoln and Douglas had an eighth debate on August 28, 1858, in West Chicago, then called Turner Junction. Affidavits of supposed eyewitnesses tell one story, which diligent research tends to dispel.

"In dealing with a vague and misty legend one becomes aware that it entails an exacting investigation and a careful evaluation in order to elicit or exact from it some factual basis, and had this procedure been followed originally, then, I dare say, West Chicago's Lincoln-Douglas tradition would have escaped its present ambiguous state," wrote Frank Scobey, a local historian.

When Henrietta Watson Norris was interviewed in 1926 at the age of 83, she recalled that in 1858 she and her father had hurried over to the cafe in the Chicago and Galena Railroad station to see Senator Douglas. "It was decided, how I don't know, that he and Mr. Lincoln should entertain the people in the afternoon with a debate on the slavery question."

"I remember the date because it was the day I first met Mrs. Henrietta Norris, who afterward became my daughter-in-law," wrote Mrs. Emory Watson in a sworn statement. "I was captain of the Ever Readys at Blackberry, I being a Democrat. Lincoln planned to ride to Turner with the Lincoln True Hearts, but they had gone so he rode over with us in our hayrack. When we reached Turner Junction he had missed his train. So they asked him up to Hickory grove. He spoke there from the hayrack under an oak tree on the west side of the yard."

Several people who were alive at the time said later they saw and heard both Lincoln and Douglas in a great rally at the grove. "This 'debate' has been a tradition in DuPage County for the last half century." Some of the people who "recalled" the meeting were only a few years old at the time, but several were in their teens. Although all seemed to remember the occasion vividly, they did say that it was their parents who reminded them years later of their presence at the rally.



Home in Sterling where Lincoln slept in 1856

But was Lincoln really there on August 28, 1858?

Those who affirm this state that Lincoln stayed with a relative, Ephralet Moran. No record of such a relative can be found, and the register of the Brewster House Hotel in Freeport shows that Lincoln spent the night of August 27, 1858, following the Freeport debate, in that hotel.

Various reports of Douglas's talk in the grove at West Chicago tell of his speaking after 2 P.M., and it is established that Lincoln waited in El Paso, Illinois, for a train en route to Peoria on August 28, 1858. If Lincoln had also spoken in West Chicago, he would have insisted on his right to speak last (he and Douglas had agreed on "perfect reciprocity"), for this would have balanced out Douglas's four conclusions to Lincoln's three. It would not have been possible for him to leave Turner Junction after 5 P.M., take the train to Mendota (where he would have had to change trains), and then go on to El Paso, speak there, and arrive in Peoria in a single day.

The Chicago Tribune of August 31, 1858, titled an article "Douglas at the Junction," in which the writer described Douglas's speech in "acid language" but did not mention Lincoln. "The Tribune, as an ardent supporter of Lincoln, never lost an opportunity to record his speeches and movements."

The Lincoln-Douglas agreement not to meet in one another's congressional districts during the course of their debates is given as another reason that this meeting would not likely have occurred. "But, on other occasions," Lloyd Wendt wrote, "Lincoln did not hesitate to speak at a Douglas meeting when such an opportunity arose. The Chicago Times, his political enemy, frequently criticized him for doing so. If Lincoln was stranded between trains in Turner on August 28, and if he was importuned to speak, the probabilities are he did so. He would not have violated the agreement, for there was no debate."

Perhaps the people present that day remember the fact that "at the close of some remarks concerning Mr. Lincoln, an individual shouted 'hurrah for Mr. Lincoln!' Then the numerous Republicans in the crowd gave three lusty cheers for their favorite." This is evidence at least that Lincoln was there in spirit.

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YOU ARE THERE . . . AT THE WIGWAM

by Karen Liederman

We soon shall celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of Lincoln's nomination to the Presidency of the United States. I understand it was a very exciting and interesting event in history. Let us go back to a century ago and imagine we were there to see everything that happened at the Republican National Convention in Chicago, which opened on May 16, 1860.

(The Time is Saturday, May 12, 1860.)

"The city is in an uproar preparing for the big event. A building has been erected especially for the convention. Now, last-minute

preparations are being made. The Republican ladies of Chicago have decorated the huge building. This gigantic structure is said to be the largest coliseum in the world; it has been named the Wigwam and stands on the southeast corner of Market and Lake streets.

"While all this preparation is going on, hundreds of people are pouring into Chicago. The forty-two hotels are packed. Visitors are even using billiard table tops for beds. Some private citizens are opening their doors to visitors. The downtown depots are overcrowded with people coming and going. Straw votes are being taken on many of the trains crowded with convention visitors. The results of the ballots appear in the newspapers from day to day. Many distinguished delegates are also arriving: Horace Greeley, editor of the New York Tribune; Governor Edwin D. Morgan of New York, chairman of the National Committee; Thurlow Weed, William H. Seward's campaign manager, and many others."

(Sunday, May 13)

"The opening day of the convention is growing nearer. The Chicagoans' spirits are really rising. There are all kinds of festivities and celebrations. The Wigwam was formally opened last night for everyone to see, and special worship services were held there this morning. The whole city is really a spectacular sight!"

(Wednesday, May 16)

"At last, the day we have all been waiting for has arrived-- Wednesday, May 16. It is half past eleven, and the three doors of the Wigwam on Market Street are now opening. The ticket holders are being admitted first. At last it is our turn, and the mad rush to fill the Wigwam's hall begins. Ladies, accompanied by gentlemen, are being seated in the gallery....

"It is now ten minutes past twelve, the convention has been called to order, and roll is now being taken by Governor Morgan. We take you to the platform....David Wilmot of Pennsylvania has been chosen temporary chairman. Temporary secretaries will now be named, and rules will be adopted. The session is expected to adjourn at two o'clock until later this afternoon."

(May 16--Later)

"The first day's session of the National Republican Convention has just reconvened, and the permanent chairman is being chosen.... George Ashmun of Massachusetts is the winner. Ashmun takes the platform to speak....

(Thursday, May 17-2:00 P.M.)

"The convention opened this morning at ten o'clock. Nothing of great importance took place, but we expect more action this afternoon. The members of the convention are now discussing the adoption of the party platform, which will probably be approved by the time the evening session is adjourned."

(Friday, May 18)

"It is now the third day of the convention, and we have been listening to the names of candidates up for nomination. Of all the names called, only Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Seward received tremendous applause. The first roll call of the states is almost over....Here is the count: Mr. Lincoln has 102 of the 465 votes cast. A second

ballot will have to be taken as there is no majority. Let us listen to the clerk read the roll call....The second ballot just tallied gives a gain of seventy-nine votes for Lincoln, but Seward is still in the lead. A third ballot will be necessary. As the officials on the platform prepare to take the roll, you can feel the undercurrent of excitement....Here is the unofficial count: 180 for Seward, 231½ for Mr. Lincoln! He lacks one and one-half votes to be nominated. But wait! This is not yet the official count. Mr. Carter of Ohio is jumping to his feet. He states that Ohio wishes to give Mr. Lincoln four votes! One of the secretaries is shouting, 'Fire the salute! Abe Lincoln is nominated!'At last quiet has been restored, and the vote officially announced. The chairman just declared that our candidate for President of the United States is Abraham Lincoln of Illinois! And so we leave the Wigwam, after witnessing one of the greatest events in history---'YOU WERE THERE.'"

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(Received Governor's Award)

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ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S HOME

by Steven Melvin

Abraham Lincoln's home, on the northeast corner of Eighth and Jackson streets is the shrine most intimately associated with his life in Springfield. It is the only home he ever owned, and to it he brought his wife and infant son, Robert Todd, after the first two years of married life had been spent at boarding houses and at the Globe Tavern, where board and room were \$4.00 a week.

Abraham Lincoln purchased the house and lot for \$1,500 on May 2, 1844 from Rev. Charles Dresser, the Episcopal rector who had married him and Mary Todd on November 4, 1842. The house is the original structure, standing on the same location as when the Lincolns lived in it. However, the Lincolns did make some changes while they lived here. Originally it was a cottage of one and one-half stories, built in 1839 on a lot 50 x 152 feet. The wall and fence at the front were built in 1850. Lincoln wrote to Nathaniel Hay, local brick maker on June 11, and ordered brick of suitable quality and sufficient number... to build a front fence on a brick foundation.

Five years later a similar fence was continued about one-fourth the length of the lot on Jackson Street with a high board fence running to the carriage house. Mrs. Lincoln in 1856, at a cost of \$1,300, had the house made a full two stories. The front staircase was a part of the 1839 structure and led to the two half-story upstairs rooms.

The house is made of native hard woods, the framework and the floors are oak, the laths are hand-split hickory, the doors, door frames, and weatherboarding are black walnut. The original shingles were hand-split walnut. The construction was with wooden pegs plus a sparing use of handmade nails.

The Lincolns made this their home from May, 1844 to February, 1861, except for the first part of Lincoln's term in Congress, when it was rented to Cornelius Ludlum for \$90 a year beginning Nov. 1, 1847.

Lincoln retained ownership and rented the house to Luccian Tilton, head of the Great Western Railroad for \$350 a year. The Tiltons continued to live in the house after Lincoln's assassination until they moved to Chicago in 1869. From then until 1880 the house was occupied by George H. Harlow, who was private secretary to Gov. Richard J. Oglesby, city editor of the Illinois State Journal, and Secretary of State for two terms. For the next three years Dr. Gustav Wendlandt, physician and later editor of a German-language newspaper, lived here. In 1883 Osborn H. Oldroyd rented the home and made it a museum for his extensive collection of Civil War relics and Lincoln mementoes. Oldroyd was instrumental in persuading Robert Todd Lincoln to give the property to the State of Illinois and this was done in a deed recorded July 29, 1887. Oldroyd was then named the first custodian, a position he held until 1893 when he moved to Washington, D. C. and later sold it to the federal government.

It was in the north parlors of the home on May 19, 1860, that Lincoln received the committee appointed to notify him formally of his nomination for the presidency. After this ceremony members of the committee were conducted to the sitting room where they were introduced to Mrs. Lincoln. There was no formal ceremony after the election, but from then until the Lincolns left for Washington the house was filled many hours of the day and night with well-wishers and office seekers.

On the last day that the Lincolns occupied the home they held a grand public levee. The hours were from 7 p.m. to midnight and the St. Louis, Missouri Democratic thus described the affair: The house was thronged by thousands, a grand outpouring of citizens and strangers. Mr. Lincoln received the people as they entered, then they passed on and were introduced to Mrs. Lincoln near the center of the parlor.

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NO SCOFFER AT RELIGION

by Bruce Kelsey

So you are goin' to preach on Abe Lincoln's religion next Sunday? I'll be out to hear you! I never knew Abe had any religion worth preaching about!" These words were spoken by Francis Emerson, a Douglas Democrat, to the Rev. Edgar DeWitt Jones. Emerson was a member of Mr. Jones's church and was usually a mild-spoken man, but the announcement of the sermon topic caused him to "spunk up".

Perhaps Lincoln had the reputation of being nonreligious because of what had happened at a revival meeting where Peter Cartwright, a Methodist minister who was his opponent for a congressional seat, was the speaker. When asked whether he was planning to go to heaven, Lincoln said, "I am going to Congress." This statement broke up the meeting.

The Believer's Daily Treasure, a tiny devotional booklet that Lincoln owned, gives new evidence of Lincoln's faith. In his introduction to a reprint of this booklet Carl Sandburg says, "It was not until 80 years after Lincoln's death that a printed statement was discovered in which he answered election campaign charges that he was "an open scoffer at Christianity" by saying in part, 'I have never denied the truth of the Scripture' and 'I do not think I could myself, be brought to support a man for office whom I knew to be an open enemy of, and scoffer at, religion.'"

The people who grew up with Lincoln said that in his Indiana years he would go to church on Sunday morning, hear the sermon, and then come home and preach the same sermon better than the preacher.

As an adult Lincoln had many ministers of a number of faiths as his friends. According to Dr. Clarence P. McClelland, former president of MacMurray College, Jacksonville, Illinois, there is evidence that Abraham Lincoln was profoundly affected by the preaching of Colonel James F. Jaquess. This minister was a member of the Seventy-third Illinois Infantry Volunteers and pastor of the First Methodist Church in Springfield for a number of years. Lincoln had a long discussion with the minister and his wife. Following this, Colonel Jaquess is quoted as saying, "If ever a person was converted, Abraham Lincoln was converted that night in my house. His wife was a Presbyterian, but from remarks made to me he could not accept Calvinism. He never joined my church, but I will always believe that since that night, Abraham Lincoln lived and died a Christian gentleman."

The story of how Lincoln ministered to a dying woman was told by the late Dr. F. C. Iglehart of New York. It was told to him by a Captain Gilbert J. Greene who, when a young man, was a printer in Springfield and often took walks with Lincoln. Greene told of Lincoln's reciting the Twenty-Third Psalm, the first part of the fourteenth chapter of John, and comforting hymns---particularly the old favorite "Rock of Ages." Lincoln is quoted as saying during a dark hour of the Civil War: "It has pleased Almighty God to place me in my present position and, looking to him for wisdom and divine guidance, I must work out my destiny as best I can."

Lincoln's religious stand can be summed up by quoting Mr. Jones when he says, "Few men in American public life have been so free from religious intolerance as the man who wrote, "With malice toward none and charity for all.'"

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LINCOLN'S LOVE FOR THE THEATRE

by Brenda Anderson

Lincoln was deprived of a good education, and developed the habit of reading every book he could get his hands on. He would walk miles just to borrow neighbors' books.

After reading several plays and the writings of Shakespeare, he tried memorizing them and would recite them as he went along in the fields.

Later in life when Lincoln began to get into political life and had married Mary Todd, he began to attend performances at various salons and theatres. His interest steadily grew. When he was absent for a great stretch of time from the theatre it was because of the death of his son Tad or political difficulties. He would return because the music and action relaxed and rested him.

During his lifetime from 1848 to 1865 he attended 31 plays, operas, concerts, etc.,

He visited Ford's Theatre ten times. He saw the musical "Mr. Lincoln." starring Clara Louise Kellog, "Franchon, the Cricket," starring Maggie Mitchell, "The Marble Heart," starring James Hackett, (this show starring James Hackett he saw two nights in a row) "Merry Wives of Windsor," impersonation of "King Lear," starring Edwin Forrests, there was also a sacred concert, a promenade concert, and "Our American Cousin," starring Laura Keene.

He visited Grover's Theatre eleven times. He saw Barney Williams, blackface minstrel and Irish comedian, "Hamlet," starring E. L. Davenport, "Othello," "The Ticket of Leave Man," starring Tom Taylor, "Richard the Third," starring Edwin Booth. He saw a series of Edwin Booth's shows including "Hamlet," "Richelieu", "Julius Caesar," Merchant of Venice," and "The Fool's Revenge." The last show he saw at Grover's was "Leah", starring Avonia Jones.

He visited Washington Theatre twice to see "King Henry IV," starring James Hackett, and "Pocahontas" (and laughs some,) starring Mrs. John Wood.

He visited Carusi's Saloon to see "The Ethiopian Serenaders."

He attended six plays at theaters that weren't recorded.

On April 14, 1865, Lincoln, accompanied by his wife, and Clara Harris and Maj. Henry R. Rathbox, entered Ford's Theatre at approximately 8:30 P.M. and saw "Our American Cousin," starring Laura Keene. Booth fired his fatal shot close to 10:30 P.M. The President was unconscious when he was moved to a house across the street, where he died the next day at approximately 7:22 A.M. Secretary Stanton then stated into the quiet of the saddened room: "Now he belongs to the ages."

Did Lincoln's love for the theatre cause his premature death?

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A MACABRE PLOT THAT FAILED

by Carolyn Casey

Incredible, but true, could be the caption for a macabre plot to snatch Abraham Lincoln's body from its tomb in Springfield and to exchange it for the release from prison of master counterfeiter Ben Boyd.

In 1876 in a Chicago saloon known as the "Hub," Big Jim Kneally, head of a small band of counterfeiters, plotted for the release of his ace engraver Ben Boyd from the state prison at Joliet. He was afraid that if Boyd stayed behind bars much longer he might "spill the beans" about the gang. Kneally, therefore, met with Ben Sheridan, owner of a saloon in, of all places, Lincoln, Illinois, to complete the dastardly plot.

"We'll have to go down to Springfield and take Mr. Lincoln's body, and keep it 'till they let Boyd out of prison," explained Kneally.

The two men left the next day for Springfield. Soon plans were laid to steal the body on July 4, but news of this leaked out.

Kneally then proposed a new plan, which included an assistant picked up at the Hub. This man was actually a federal agent, L. C. Swegles.

The gang was to take along a diagonally torn piece of the London Times. This piece was to be left at the scene of the robbery. Ironically, the part retained by the gang was to be concealed in a bust of Lincoln at the Hub. This latter piece was to be used to identify Kneally when the time arrived for negotiating Boyd's release in exchange for Lincoln's body.

Abraham Lincoln's tomb had been completed at a cost of \$180,000, and the gang thought it would be worthless without the Emancipator's body. The body was not to be returned until Ben Boyd was released and a payment in cash of \$200,000 was made.

About 10:00 P.M. the ghouls arrived. They carried tools and a large sack. A wagon and a driver were waiting. They planned to break into the casket and steal only the body if the burial case proved too cumbersome. They succeeded in opening the sarcophagus and in pulling the burial case into the room. (The silver identification shield from this casket is now on display in the Illinois State Historical Society Historymobile.) Then Swegles left---supposedly to have the wagon brought up near the tomb. Actually, however, he went to signal the other secret service men. The two crooks left in the tomb decided to wait outside until Swegles returned with the wagon. Spotting the secret service men, the crooks fled. They were captured some time later and tried for the crime which had shocked and enraged the nation. They were given only a year in prison.

In 1880, four years after this body-snatching attempt, a Lincoln Guard of Honor was established to conduct services at the tomb on the anniversaries of Lincoln's birth and death. On April 14, 1887, the members of the Guard of Honor were instructed to meet at the tomb. Lincoln's body was viewed and identified for the last time by them and by the members of the Lincoln Monument Association. Then the coffin was sealed forever in a vault beneath the floor of the tomb.

There it remains today, safe from any future attempts to desecrate the remains of our greatest President.

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(Received Governor's Award)

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WHY A BEARD?

by Brenda Oller

"Grow A Beard", suggested eleven year old Grace Bedell, "because all the ladies like whiskers and they would tease their husbands to vote for you and then you would become president."

Grace wrote a letter to Abraham Lincoln on October 5, 1860. "I have four brothers and part of them will vote for you anyway, and if you will let your whiskers grow I will try to get the rest of them to vote for you; you would look a great deal better, for your face is so thin."

Amused, Abe answered that he had never worn any whiskers before and asked Grace, "Do you not think that people would call it a piece of silly affection if I were to begin it now?"

Yet, hardly a month later he was seen with stubble sprouting from his chin. Why? An astute scholar explains it this way: "Possibly Lincoln grew a beard because of his sense of history. The United States had never had a bearded President...."

Republican rule, Republican policies, would inaugurate a new era. All men might know that, merely by observing the altered appearance of the Republican President. For a new life, he was producing a new profile.

November 26, 1860 after the election, a paper joked, "Old Abe is....puttin' on hairs."

January 26, 1861 the beard grew some more, but still looked some what strange and didn't fit his face yet. By February 9, the beard was fully grown.

LINCOLN'S LETTER TO GRACE

Springfield, Illinois
October 19, 1860

Miss Grace Bedell:

My dear little Miss,

Your very agreeable letter of the 15th is received.

I regret the necessity of saying I have no daughters. I have three sons. One seventeen, one nine and one seven years of age.

They with their mother constitute my whole family.

As to the whiskers, having never worn any, don't you think people would call it a piece of silly affection if I were to begin it now?

Your very sincere well wisher,

A. Lincoln

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LINCOLN'S PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION

by Barbara Landis

Lincoln gained reputation as being outstandingly clever and intelligent as a youth. He spent many hours reading and studying such books as were made available to him. Two of these books were the "Bible" and "Pilgrims Progress".

Lincoln talked rashly upon the subject of religion. On one occasion, Washington's birthday in 1842, he made an address before the Washingtonian Temperance Society that expressed the most unconditional disapproval of intemperance. Attitudes of this sort were not very likely to be popular in a frontier community.

One book in particular, Volney's "Ruins of Time", may have contributed to his attitudes. It is doubted, though, that this book or any book really did affect him.

It is hard to believe that Lincoln was at any time in his life a genuine skeptic. His temper was essentially religious.

It is certain, though, that the fury of the primitive religious revivals of his time impressed him, even though he is reported to have made mock of such revivals.

He was a man of strong religious convictions, but cared not for the dogmas of churches, nor did he have little respect for their creeds.

Lincoln never accepted any definite creed. Although he thought a great deal about religion, he expressed his views to few. He was free from any sectarian connection. His religious attitude was put into words in the later part of his life when he said, "I never unite myself to any church because I have found difficulty in giving my assent without mental reservations, to the long complicated statements of Christian doctrine which characterize their Articles of Belief and Confession of Faith. When any church will inscribe over its altar, as its soul qualification for membership, the Masters condensed statement of the substance of both Law and Gospel, 'Thou shall love thy God, with all my heart, with all my soul and with all my mind, and thy neighbor as thyself', that church will I join with all my heart and with all my soul."

It is noted, also, that he had a great deal of belief in dreams. While he called himself superstitious, he probably meant to acknowledge belief in the supernatural.

In the year, 1843, there was a marked change in his attitude. Just as he put a stop to his political sarcasm, he also put aside his earlier impulse for religious banter.

This change, however, was not an overnight thing. As a party speaker and debater, Lincoln had formed bad mental habits, of which he may not have been aware, which did not wholly disappear until many years had passed.

In Congress, where he had served a single term, 1847-49, Lincoln was a staunch party member of the Whig organization. It was during this term, that he suggested a bill for freeing the slaves in the District of Columbia.

While he previously hated slavery and all it stood for, he proclaimed that while Congress could abolish slavery, Congress should act only on the request of the people. This was the first instance of Lincoln's change of attitude in how to handle the slavery problem. Indeed it was the first example of this man's deep concentration, that was to be in years to come so great in the history of our country.

All the same, Lincoln had not satisfied or impressed anyone as a Congressman. He was in a period of disappointment and depression when he returned from Congress in 1849.

After his term in Congress, Lincoln returned to the tasks of being a lawyer. In just a few years, his straight forward opinions expressed in various debates and speeches was fast making him a national figure.

He was extremely honest on all the steps of his famous life. On one occasion, serving as a lawyer, he was deceived by a client. He is reported to have thrown up the case in the midst of the trial, retired to his hotel room sending these words to the judge, "My hands are dirty and I came to clean them."

Lincoln was inaugurated March 4, 1861, as president. Throughout his life as president, there were numerous occasions when he showed his patient, understanding, but yet firm character. Not until it was a certainty that the nation could remain split on the subject of slavery, did he issue the Emancipation Proclamation. Lincoln truly suffered with every mourning wife, mother, and child during the terrible days of the Civil War.

Lincoln even favored women suffrage far ahead of his time; and the doctrine of the Declaration of Independence became a way of life to him.

Even though Lincoln had strong political opponents the people re-elected this man for a second term as president - a man who could utter such stirring words as found in the Gettysburg Address and his Second Inaugural Address.

The untimely death of Lincoln closed the doors on the career of one of the most compassionate, forceful men in all our history.

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ASSASSINATION PLOT AT BALTIMORE

by Lowell Snitchler

While Abraham Lincoln was on his way to be inaugurated, several attempts were made on his life. The most daring of these was to take place at Baltimore.

Allan Pinkerton was hired by Samuel Felton, president of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad, to assure Mr. Lincoln's safety on the rest of his trip.

Mr. Pinkerton reached Philadelphia on the morning of February twenty-first. On his arrival he enlisted the aid of Norman Judd, a close friend of Mr. Lincoln.

The president-elect entered Philadelphia at 4:00 P.M. He went immediately to the Continental Hotel where festivities were being given in his honor.

Mr. Felton, Mr. Judd and Mr. Pinkerton that evening went to confere with Mr. Lincoln at the Continental Hotel. During this conference the detective informed Mr. Lincoln his spies had uncovered proof of a plot to assassinate the president-elect. The plot was headed by a barber named Ferdinandina. The barber's plan was a daring one. When Mr. Lincoln reached the Baltimore railroad station the assassins would be disguised as friends. A bullet wound would be inflicted after Mr. Lincoln boarded his carriage. In the confusion they would slip away to a vessel which would transport them to Mobile, Alabama. All three men urged the president-elect to leave for Washington immediately. Mr. Lincoln told them he would not leave that night because of two appointments he was attending the next day. After much pleading he gave his consent to do what they advised after these engagements.

The next morning at six he raised the flag at Independance Hall. He and Mr. Judd then left for Harrisburg. Mr. Judd filled Mr. Lincoln in on the plans made the night before by a group of men including Mr. Felton, Mr. Pinkerton and himself. That afternoon Mr. Lincoln went to the reception given by the Pennsylvania Legislature. After the reception he retired to an apartment at the Jone's house. At six he put on a soft wool hat and a thread bare overcoat. He then left from a side door into a waiting carriage. Accompanied by Colonel Lamon Mr. Lincoln was driven to a special railroad coach bound for Philadelphia. As a precaution to prevent word of Mr. Lincoln's sudden departure from seeping out all telegraph wires leading out of Harrisburg were cut. The train arrived in Philadelphia at 10:30 P.M. Mr. Pinkerton met the president-elect with a carriage. The detective then drove Mr. Lincoln to another railroad terminal on the other side of town. The president-elect and his party then boarded a train and went to the last car.

At six the next morning on February 23, 1861 Mr. Lincoln arrived in Washington thanks to the men who helped to avoid an "Assassination Plot at Baltimore."

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THE LINCOLN GUARD OF HONOR

by Robert Wright

The Lincoln Guard of Honor was formed on February 12, 1880, in Springfield. There were nine members: Gustavus S. Dana, president, Jasper N. Reece, vice-president, John Carroll Power, secretary, Joseph P. Lindle, treasurer, Clinton L. Conkling, Horace Chapin, Noble B. Wiggins, James F. McNeil, and Edward S. Johnson.

The reason for the organization being formed was announced as to buy, keep in repair, and keep open for visitors Abraham Lincoln's home in Springfield, and to hold memorial services on the anniversaries of Lincoln's birth, death, and other important dates in his life. But these were just excuses for its formation. The real reason these men joined together was to guard Lincoln's remains from vandals.

The official insignia of the organization was a badge with a figurehead of Lincoln and the organization's title, printed on white satin. This badge was worn on all occasions by the members.

The first memorial service was held on April 15, 1880, fifteen years after Lincoln's death, at the monument. Although it was a chilly, foggy morning, about three hundred people joined reverently in the service.

On April 14, 1887, Lincoln's body was dug up from the grave where the Lincoln Guard of Honor had secretly buried it several years before and was put in Lincoln's Monument under the supervision of John C. Power, who was also custodian of the Monument. Here it was carefully guarded. This is probably the act for which the organization was most noted.

On February 13, 1888, they agreed not to hold any more memorial services, "leaving it to the citizens". Actually, as mentioned before, this was not their real intention anyway.

They also agreed that the secretary would construct a casket and put all their records in it. This they put in the National Lincoln Monument as a memento. The death of any member was entered in the records by a living member. The living members also acted as pall-bearers at the funeral.

As the members died, the National Guard of Honor died with them. So ended an organization that may well have made it possible for us to honor Abraham Lincoln's remains in the Monument to him in Springfield today.

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LINCOLN'S PLACE OF BURIAL

by Patricia Peugh

After Lincoln's death, the Springfield citizens organized the National Lincoln Monument Association. The monument was designed by Larkin Mead, Jr. It has a one hundred seventeen foot spire and four bronze groups on the corners. Above the entrance is a ten-foot statue of Lincoln. The nine types of marble used in the construction of the tomb came from Minnesota, Massachusetts, Utah, Arkansas, Missouri, Italy, Belgium, Spain, and France.

Lincoln was originally placed in a receiving vault north of the tomb. The body was moved to a temporary vault northeast of the present tomb in December of 1865. Finally, in 1871, Lincoln's body was moved to the present tomb.

On September 26, 1901, the body was placed in a vault, thirty inches north of the present cenotaph, ten feet below the surface of the floor, where it has remained.

Mrs. Lincoln and the three youngest sons are buried in the tomb. The oldest son is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

In 1876 counterfeiters were unsuccessful in trying to steal Lincoln's body.

The construction of the Lincoln Tomb was started in 1869, and dedicated in 1874. In 1895 the Monument Association turned control of the Tomb over to the state. The total cost was four hundred fifty-five thousand dollars.

Along the corridors leading to the burial chamber are four-foot statuettes.

On the cenotaph is the inscription, "Abraham Lincoln, 1809-1865." Surrounding it are four flags of states in which generations of the Lincoln family lived. Inscribed over the window at the north are the words, "Now he belongs to the Ages."

Surely, Abraham Lincoln was a great man.

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STERLING MOURNS LINCOLN

by Edward Wiese

On April 15, 1861, in many towns across the nation these words were submitted over the electric telegraph, "The President is Dead". These terrible, unwanted words reached unexpected communities all over the United States. These words reached Sterling too. The people's feeling, when the news was heard, can hardly be described. Their great leader of this very trying time was dead.

As for the people's feelings toward the assassin, John Wilkes Booth, they were filled with hate. The editor of the Sterling Gazette at that time, Charles M. Worthington, even went so far as to compare Booth with the horribly confused Judas who betrayed Jesus. Men of this time would have done almost anything to see Booth brought to justice. I say men would have done anything, but not all men would have. While Colonel Moses Dillon of Sterling was near the town of Cairo on the Mississippi River he experienced the death of an unsympathetic soldier who, while in a crowd, heard the news and without thinking, this stupid thoughtless man, uttered the words, "It should have been done long ago." These were the last words he ever spoke for the other soldiers were so riled up by his thoughtless remark that they killed him.

Although Lincoln's actual funeral was held in Washington D. C., in many communities around the nation people were in mourning. In Sterling almost all the people were in a state of mourning when they heard the terrible news. Strong men shuddered and women broke out crying. It was decided by the Odd Fellow and Masonic orders that there would be a procession in the town on April 19, 1865. Lead by the band and drummers, the people marched through the town to a meeting in Wallace Hall. This meeting was held like a church or funeral service with a choir, prayers, and a scripture. There was a funeral oration by Reverend W. A. Lipe. He stated that all great men shall and must die someday, but that being assassinated wasn't the best way to die. He concluded his long oration saying that we couldn't call Lincoln's four years a failure and while even though he was shot, his term was a complete success. He then thanked the "Eternal Jehova" for this great man's success in helping his troubled nation. The meeting was then closed with the benediction by Reverend H. Hartwell.

All and all it was then as it would be now, if the same thing happened to our President for it was a President, a great President at the end, or almost the end, of a very trying time which he helped his nation through. We have never forgotten him for his achievements, and we never will.

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NOW HE BELONGS TO THE AGES

by Michael Otto

On May 23, 1901, Mr. Robert T. Lincoln visited the Lincoln Monument in Oak Ridge to make final arrangements for his fathers burial.

Mr. Lincoln wanted the interment to be done as privately as possible. This was done.

J. S. Culver was present while the opening of the casket and the viewing of the remains were taking place. They had to identify the remains before they were permanently laid to rest.

Mr. Lincoln did not want the casket to be opened and the remains to be seen, because this was done at the last burial.

The remains were moved from the north room to the south room and placed on pedestals.

This was done with the utmost privacy. Newspaper men and reporters were not let in and the shades were pulled on the glass door.

The remaining members were of the Lincoln Guard of Honor, State Officials, Officers of the Culver Construction Company, mechanics for opening and closing the casket and others especially interested.

There were twenty-one prominent people that viewed and identified Abraham Lincoln's remains.

One of these people was Clara Kern Bayliss, the wife of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. At one time she lived in Sterling and was the wife of the principal of Central School.

They opened the casket and found the remains in perfect order.

The remains were identified and viewed by all. The guests then signed the Monument Register, and the lead lining of the casket securely sealed. (The lead lining was put in to preserve Lincolns remains.) It was then taken back to the sarcophagus room and they put him to rest for the final time.

Inscribed over the window at the north are the words "Now he belongs to the ages," which were spoken by Secretary of War, Edwin M. Stanton at Lincoln's death.

On the cenotaph itself is the simple inscription Abraham Lincoln, 1809 - 1865.

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LINCOLN'S FINAL HOURS

by Terry Brooks

It was Good Friday night, April 14, 1865. Abraham Lincoln stood before his mirror, straightening his bow tie. Tonight he was going to relax from his usual work. He had promised to take Mrs. Lincoln to Ford's Theatre to see "Our American Cousin."

"Would you have us be late?" a voice called.

The President turned toward the door to see Mrs. Lincoln standing there in a white dress and pink bonnet.

"Not for the world," he replied and started toward the front door with his wife. His mind was far from the theater. There was so much to be done. The Civil War had ended four days before. Now the nation must be reunited.

Burns, the coachman, helped Mrs. Lincoln into the coach, closed the door, and climbed into the driver's seat. The coach was on its way. The President was still thinking of his plan to rebuild the South and join all the states together again.

General and Mrs. Ulysses G. Grant had been invited to join the President but were unable to attend. So Mrs. Lincoln had invited Major Henry R. Rathbone and Miss Clara Harris, a young engaged couple, to go with them.

The coach rolled to a stop at the theater, and the President and Mrs. Lincoln climbed out. John F. Parker, the President's personal guard that night, led them to Box 7. He was a substitute for William H. Crook, the President's usual faithful bodyguard. After ushering the party into the box, Parker stationed himself outside the door. He had been ordered to stand there and to permit no one to enter.

In Box 7 the President was holding Mrs. Lincoln's hand, and she noticed that he was smiling. He really did enjoy the play, thought Mrs. Lincoln. And what was the President thinking? Draped before him was a silk flag of the same design as the one he had raised at Independence Hall in Philadelphia in February, 1861, saying, "I would rather be assassinated on this spot than to surrender it." Perhaps he was thinking of a phrase from his Gettysburg Address, "We highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain."

At that moment John Wilkes Booth was proceeding to the President's box. He fingered a derringer pistol and moved toward the door. There was no guard. Parker had become interested in the play and had left his post to watch. Booth opened the door and entered Box 7. Just then there was a roar of laughter at the play. The President had dropped Mrs. Lincoln's hand. Booth stepped behind the President, aimed the derringer, and fired. A lead ball crashed into Abraham Lincoln's head to bring death to one of our greatest Presidents.---

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